

Remarks/Arguments

The Office Communication makes reference to a communication filed on 26 August 2005. The Applicant has no record of such a communication, and would very much appreciate clarification by the Examiner.

The Examiner has objected that both Claims 3 and 4 were numbered "3", and has indicated that misnumbered Claims 3-14 have been renumbered 4-15.

The Applicant calls the attention of the Examiner to the Preliminary Amendment filed on 10 February 2005. This Preliminary Amendment includes a Listing and Amendments to the Claims, which includes fifteen claims which are sequentially numbered. The Applicant respectfully submits that the claims submitted in the preliminary amendment are the claims which are presently pending in this application, and that there is no misnumbering of the Claims.

This invention relates to a method for managing a session key used for enabling communication between a mobile terminal and an access point in a wireless local area network (WLAN), in which a session key is selected and sent to a virtual operator, from where it is sent to a mobile terminal, if certain conditions are met. Nowhere is this method shown or suggested by the cited reference.

Cited U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0037708, to McCann et al, relates to a method for managing access to a local area network, in which the local area network communicates with a home authentication, authorization, and accounting device (HAAA 8), which then generates an encoding PIN which allows a user to communicate with the WLAN. Nowhere does the cited reference show or suggest the step of:

selecting a session key and sending the session key to the virtual operator via a first secure channel,

as specifically recited in Claim 1. Rather, in McCann et al., the virtual operator 8 generates a PIN, encodes the PIN with a mask to form a session key, and forwards the key to the user. It is therefore clear that nowhere do McCann et al. show or suggest sending a session key to the virtual operator. It is therefore clear that the invention defined by Claim 1 is patentable over McCann et al.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication of patentable subject matter in Claims 2-6.

Claim 7 is dependent from Claim 1 and adds further advantageous features. The Applicant submits that Claim 7 is patentable as its parent Claim 1.

Claim 8 is similar to Claim 1 in reciting the step of:

means . . . for . . . sending the session key to the virtual operator.

Nowhere does McCann et al. show or suggest this feature. Rather, in McCann et al., the session key is *generated* by the virtual operator 8. The Applicant therefore submits that the invention defined by Claim 8 is similarly not affected by the teachings of McCann et al.

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 9-13.

Claim 14 is dependent from Claim 8 and adds further advantageous features. The Applicant submits that Claim 14 is patentable as its parent Claim 8.

Claim 15 specifically recites:

the virtual operator receives the session key from the WLAN through a second secure channel.

Nowhere does McCann et al. show or suggest this step of the method. Rather, in McCann et al., the virtual operator 8 *itself* generates the session

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key, rather than receiving a session key, as specifically recited in Claim 15. It is therefore clear that the teachings of McCann et al. do not affect the patentability of Claim 15.

The Applicant submits that the above application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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